



The Garden View

Garden News

Welcome to the first edition of our new Donor Newsletter! With the sun higher in the sky and the days getting longer our sense of hope and renewal are beginning to bloom. How wonderful that the seasonal changes remind us about the possibilities in life!

Here at the Garden change and new possibilities are blooming too. We have seen a tremendous increase in referrals and utilization. After 17 years, we think the word has finally gotten out!

In January, we were notified that we were voted *2017 Non-Profit of the Year* by the Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce—a recognition so well deserved for our compassionate and gifted therapists and staff who create a safe and nurturing environment where clients can put down the weight of their worries.

We also want to share our excitement about our future sustainability by way of the establishment of the Healing Garden Endowment Fund, thanks to the generous and thoughtful bequest of one of our strongest supporters, the late Win Hindle, of Concord, MA.

With the support of the local community and donors like you, we have been able to propel ourselves to the next level in our vision of making holistic integrative cancer care available to all.

We are now open 5 days a week once again, and have expanded our hours into the evening and on some weekends to accommodate ...

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April 2017



Bill Thurston, Founder, Meg Koch, Executive Director, Betsy Tyson Smith, Founder.

In recognition of the vitally important cancer support provided to the community
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden Cancer Support Center
has been voted
2017 Non-Profit of the Year
Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce



caregiver programs and services as well as offerings for cancer clients who are unable to come during the day.

Staff positions have been restored to full time for both our Care Coordinator and Co-Directors of Wellness and Integrative Care providing us with more time to give to clients and families. Our Business Manager's hours have doubled and she is now able to provide grant writing support.

Over these years, we are thankful for the individual gifts of 5,339 individuals, and those provided by 485 corporations and foundations. Thus, our programs and services are strong and we can continue to provide free care through our Fund-A-Need program to our most vulnerable clients.

Outside, the old decaying fence has been replaced, and the sensory garden is home to a new gorgeous October Glory Maple shade tree. We cannot wait for April 29th when our Healing Gardeners will join us once again to open the Koi Pond, fill the bird baths and wake up the gardens. Join us if you can for this fun work party!

While all of this is great progress, nothing compares to the progress we see with clients, caregivers and their families as they engage in the care and support that you make possible which helps them find their way in a life changed by cancer.

Thank you for all you do. **We hope to see you on May 21st for Perennial Walk 2017!**

Meg

Margaret Koch, Executive Director



Join us at one of our upcoming events!

Tickets and more information at www.HealingGarden.net

Lighting the Path Gala

at the Whistler House Museum of Art,
Lowell MA

Thursday, April 27th

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Wine, hors d'oeuvres, Jazz, Museum Admission

Silent Auction, Raffle

Benefits the Madonna Fund at the Healing Garden— support for mothers and their children



Concerts at the Garden

First Sunday of each month through
June

3:00 to 5:00 pm



WAYS TO GIVE

We are grateful for all the gifts we receive. Every gift is important and no donation is ever too small. We gratefully accept:

- Online Gifts
- Gifts of check, cash or credit card
- Gifts in memory or in honor of someone special
- Matching gifts
- Monthly gifts
- Contribution of appreciated stock
- Contributions of appreciated assets
- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable lead trusts

A Client Story - Beginning Again

For some the road in life is long and challenging. For Karen, this was true, but finally she was finding her own successes and had two adult children both out of the house and thriving--a significant milestone for a single parent. Eager to launch the "second half of her life," Karen was excited to finally have time to focus on herself and work that she loved. She dove into her career working at a school for troubled teenagers, building a strong network of colleagues and friends. She even relocated to be closer to her work. It was exciting and the culmination of a very long journey to create a life that felt solid and rewarding. However, two months after her move, she received devastating news. She was diagnosed with multiple myeloma--and learned that following a stem cell transplant, she would require a lifetime of maintenance chemotherapy. The results would leave her too immune-compromised to return to work in a school setting ever again. It meant the end of her dream, and the end of social connections.

Although having overcome many challenges in her life, she experienced a familiar return of depression and a brand-new sense of isolation. Karen arrived at the Healing Garden knowing she needed help. She tentatively began to engage in a support group and expressive arts therapy classes, finding the community and compassion reassuring. To address her physical illnesses and treatment side effects Karen regularly receives Shiatsu, an ancient Japanese physical therapy based in traditional Chinese Medicine, which greatly improves her physical pain and distress. And, as this life-change is settling in for her, Karen utilizes counseling services, and one-on-one Art Therapy to find her way through understanding the experiences that formed her, what she has lost and what she wants to create for her future. The Healing Garden has been instrumental in her developing resiliency, so much so that Karen's plan is now to move back to this area to be closer to the Garden, as it has become her home, and the foundation from which she will create her new life.

Brianne Carter, LICSW, MTS

Join us at one of our upcoming events!

Tickets and more information at www.HealingGarden.net

2017 Healing Garden Perennial Walk

Sunday, May 21st
Walk begins at 1:00 pm



2017 Ride to Thrive

Metric and ½ Metric Century Ride
through Nashoba Valley
Sunday, September 17th,
8:00 am



Check out our [new website](http://www.HealingGarden.Net) at www.HealingGarden.Net

For questions or comments, email us at info@healinggarden.net or call 978-456-3532

THE VIRGINIA THURSTON HEALING GARDEN

Improving quality of life for all those affected by cancer



The Garden View - Spring Newsletter



**Support the Fighters. Admire the Survivors.
Honor the Taken.**

Sunday, May 21, 2017

1:00-4:00pm

\$25 Registration for a 3 mile walk in Harvard.
You can walk with us, Donate, Build a Team with
Theme, or Volunteer. We would love to see you for
this special Healing Garden event.

<http://healinggarden.pw2017.dojiggy.com/ng/>

Look inside for the many new things
happening at the Garden.



145 Bolton Road
Harvard, MA 01451

Healing Garden Cancer Support Center
THE VIRGINIA THURSTON

